Are not with me eſteem'd aboue thy life.
I would loſe all, I ſacrifize them all
Heere to this diuell, to deliuer you.
*Por.* Your wife would giue you little thanks for that
If ſhe were by to heare you make the offer.
*Gra.* I haue a wife, who I proteſt I loue,
I would ſhe were in heauen, ſo ſhe could
Entreate ſome power to change this curriſh *Iew*,
*Ner.* Tis well you offer it behinde her backe,
The wiſh would make elſe an vnquiet houſe.
*Iew.* Theſe be the chriſtian husbands, I haue a daughter,
Would any of the ſtocke of *Barrabas*
Had bene her husband, rather then a Chriſtian.
We trifle time, I pray thee purſue ſentence.
*Por.* A pound of that ſame Merchants fleſh is thine,
The Court awards it, and the law doth giue it.
*Iew.* Moſt rightfull Iudge.
*Por.* And you muſt cut this fleſh from off his breaſt,
The Law allowes it, and the Court awards it.
*Iew.* Moſt learned Iudge, a ſentence, come prepare.
*Por.* Tarry a little, there is ſomething elſe,
This bond doth giue thee here no iote of blood,
The words expreſly are a pound of fleſh:
Take then thy bond, take thou thy pound of fleſh,
But in the cutting it, if thou doſt ſhed
One drop of Chriſtian blood, thy lands and goods
Are by the lawes of Venice, confiſcate
Vnto the State of Venice.
*Gra.* O vpright Iudge,
Marke *Iew*, O learned Iudge.
*Shy.* Is that the Law?
*Por.* Thy ſelfe ſhalt ſee the Act:
For as thou vrgeſt iuſtice, be aſſur'd
Thou ſhalt haue iuſtice, more then thou deſireſt.
*Gra.* O learned Iudge, marke *Iew*, a learned Iudge.
*Iew.* I take this offer then, pay the bond thrice,





And let the Chriſtian go.
*Baſſ.* Heere is the money.
*Por.* Soft, the Iew ſhall haue all iuſtice, ſoft no haſt
He ſhall haue nothing but the penalty.
*Gra.* O Iew, an vpright iudge, a learned iudge.
*Por.* Therefore prepare thee to cut off the fleſh,
Shed thou no blood, nor cut thou leſſe nor more,
But iuſt a pound of fleſh: if thou cutſt more
Or leſſe then a iuſt pound, be it but ſo much
As makes it light or heauy in the ſubſtance,
Or the diuiſion of the twentith part
Of one poore ſcruple; nay, if the ſcale do turne
But in the eſtimation of a haire,
Thou dyeſt, and all thy goods are confiſcate.
*Gra.* A ſecond Daniel, a Daniel Iew,
Now infidell I haue you on the hip.
*Por.* Why doth the Iew pauſe, take thy forfeyture.
*Shy.* Giue me my principall, and let me go.
*Baſſ.* I haue it ready for thee, heere it is.
*Por.* He hath refuſd it in the open Court,
And ſhall haue meerely iuſtice and his bond.
*Gra.* A Daniel ſtill ſay I, a ſecond Daniel,
I thanke thee Iew for teaching me that word.
*Shy.* Shall I not haue barely my principall?
*Por.* Thou ſhalt haue nothing but the forfeyture,
To be ſo taken at thy perill Iew.
*Shy.* Why then the deuill giue him good of it:
Ile ſtay no longer heere in queſtion.
*Por.* Tarry Iew,
The Law hath yet another hold on you.
It is enacted in the lawes of Venice,
If it be proued againſt any alien,
That by direct, or indirect attempts,
He ſeeke the life of any Citizen,
The party gainſt the which he doth contriue,
Shall ſeize on halfe his goods; the other halfe



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